The decline in consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during 1992-93 is mainly due to the increase in their prices consequent on their decontrol with effect from 25-8-92.

(c) The entire requirement of potassic fertilisers in the country is met through imports as the country does not have any known reserves of potash. The production Of phosphates in 1993-94 is likely to be 19 lakh tonnes in nutrient terms as compared to 23.06 lakh tones during 1992-93.

(d) The concession of Rs. 1000/- per tanae on indigenous DAP, proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 340A per tonne on indigenous SSP has decreased their sale prices to farmers and has contributed to improving production of these fertilisers by the fertiliser industry in the country

Sophisticated equipment to detect persons lying in nibble to Maharstra

2078. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that several offers to sead sophisticated equipment that car* detect the persons breathing in rubble to *speed* up the resale operations in the earthquake affected areas of Maharash tra:

(b) if so, the countries which have come forward *to* offer such sophisticated •equipment to detect the penons breathing in rabble in the earthquake-affected areas; and

(c) whether Government have taken decision to accept such offers, if not, the reasons therefor?

ME MINISTER OF STAT]E IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE) <SIRI ARVIND WETAM): (a) to (c) Thenformation is being collected and will laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Locusts attack in Rajasthan

2079. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Witt the Minister Of AGRICULTURE be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to centrol • attack of locusti swarms in Rajasthan as it is feated that the locusts may reappear in Rajasthan within three *to* four years, indieating the) Central assistance ; given so far ander "Operation Locusts Control to the State Government ;and

(b) whether ,any official level meeting; for the exchange of informaion between India and Pakistan,held so far to control and watch the future locusts movement, indicating also the help given so far by the F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organisation) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SPATE IN THE •MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTINAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Locust control in the Scheduled Desert Area in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana is the responsibility of the Central Government. For this purpose, a permanent organisation called Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) has - teen functioning since 1939. The Government has senc-Honed an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores for strengthening the infastructural facilities. For effective control of locust incursions during summer, 1993, an additional am. ount of Rs. 2.80 crores was provided. Besides, international assistance was sought and received through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Daring the racent locust control campaign, the following Central assistance was extended to the state Goverment of Raiasthant—Insecticides (479.0 MT of BHC 10 per, cent dust), hand ddust.ers 3059 Nos.), power dusters (15 Nos.) and vehide mennded ULVA MAST!SBra-yers (1 No) Besides, both and and aerial operations were carried ont for